

Middle Canyon Land Use Advisory Committee (MCLUAC)
Minutes from August 31st, 2021 Meeting
Location: West Glacier Elementary School

Call to Order: 7:08 p.m.

Committee Members:

- Sharon Demeester (not present) 12/31/21
- Aubrie Loroña 12/31/22
- Lexi Woods 12/31/23
- Victoria Lee 12/31/23
- Joe Hoff 12/31/23

Approval of Agenda for August 31, 2021 MCLUAC Meeting

- Aubrie motioned to approve the agenda. Lexi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of July 27th, 2021 minutes as amended

- Lexi motioned to approve the July 27th, 2021 minutes. Joe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old business

- West Glacier Vision Plan (WGVP) Update
 - Mary Tee McClelland – On August 11th, 2021, individuals from the community and area stakeholders were present; plus, letters of support were brought forth during the meeting with the Flathead County Planning Board to review, discuss, and, in hopes, to adopt the Plan. Mark Mussman had also written a letter of commitment since he was involved in the development of the Plan.
 - One member on the Planning Board was not in favor of the WGVP because of the “lack of mention of private property.” Mary stated that private property is mentioned in the County Growth Policy where it talks about maintaining the growth of the area. Some disputed certain terminology stating their concerns with regards to ideological differences. Ultimately, those present spoke up and reiterated that this was a West Glacier Vision Plan, not a Plan for the entire County.
 - The ultimate vote was to deny/reject the Plan but forward it to the County Commissioners. Post discussion amongst themselves, they stated that they would like for the WGVP committee to do a Workshop. The Workshop will be on September 8th, 2021 where they will consider this project along with others. On the County Growth Policy, there were concerns if this is going to be defensible in court. They were reminded that this is not regulatory, but rather, an amendment to the Cannon Plan. This is what [we] hope to address. We also plan to address the private property issue/concern, change some verbiage, and better understand the difference between regulatory and non-regulatory. Our overall goal is to help the community with grants, planning, and development. The Planning Office is recommending we move forward with the Planning Office approval. If anyone has further questions, they are welcome to reach out to Mary T. McClelland, Gary Rodgers, Monica Jungster, and/or Onno Wieringa for more information.

- The new interim Director for the Flathead County Planning Board is Eric Mack. He will take place on September 17th, 2021.
- Wildfire Update
 - Monica Jungster – After last meeting, fires came quickly. We are happy to now see the fire season starting to settle down. During the Community Wildfire Meeting with the DNRC, their recommendation is to start planning now for next year. If the community wanted to start doing fire prevention/mitigation meetings, that might be a good idea. We could hold meetings at the Montana House or via email. DNRC's focus is on home assessments; not waiting until next Spring. Other suggestions are to work with our neighbors on fuel reduction, consider sprinkler systems, be proactive. The DNRC stated that they are going to put together some information to give people that have short/long-term rentals. We plan to hold another community meeting in early June 2022 with the NPS, NFS, DNRC, NPS, etc. Evacuation is a big concern. All agencies are working together.
 - Fire Safe Flathead – a community with multiple agencies all working towards fire safety, prevention/mitigation, awareness, and education. A lot of “grant folks” are a part of this group. As West Glacier residents and business owners, we may want to consider getting involved.

New Business

- West Glacier Historical Gateway Project (WGHGP)
 - The WGHGP Committee is still pushing to move forward with the overpass renovation and landscaping project. As a reminder, there is a GoFundMe out there for people to donate money towards the project(s). There has been \$580 collected-to-date. We need more; our current projected cost is \$300K. We will scale is down if we determine that we need to. The BNSF will have to do the reconstruction of the bridge so it has become a much bigger project than we had originally expected. There are safety and traffic concerns. We also have business cards that are available for individuals and businesses to disseminate. We are also waiting on more information from the Center for Native Plants.
- HIPCAMP Concerns
 - Beth Hodder – HIPCAMP is a VRBO site to reserve someone's field/yard to camp in. I am curious how this fits into the County Plan in regards to public health and safety. Another concern is septic and sanitation. We might want to consider up-channeling our concerns to the County Health Department.

Discussion and Public Comments

- None

Adjournment 8:01 p.m.

Public Attendees

Mary T. McClelland
Jill Rocksund
Dan Yuhas
Mike Kopitzke
Onno Wieringa
Darwon Stoneman
Monica Jungster
Beth Hodder

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Elaine Nelson at the Flathead County Commissioner's Office at 758-5501 or TTY (800) 335-7592, or call Montana Relay at 711. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. Any communication with the Flathead Planning and Zoning Office are subject to relevant State and Federal public record and information laws and regulations and may be disclosed without further notice to you.

How to contact the Middle Canyon Land Use Committee (MCLUAC)

All correspondence goes to the Flathead Planning Office initially. Concerns, complaints or questions should be sent to Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov; the office will respond within 24 hours.

Compliance complaints can be submitted by Middle Canyon residents by completing the compliant form provided online, attached to an email to the Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov office. Forms are also available at the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office, 40-11th Street W, Kalispell MT

Code compliance web page:

https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/codecompliance.php

Complaint violation form:

https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/documents/ComplaintFormupdated12.19.16.pdf